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LETTER DATED 27 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the violations of Iraqi national airspace committed by United States aircraft in order to carry out reconnaissance and cause provocation continued over the period from 11 to 20 December 1995.

11 December 1995

1. Southern region: 21 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Artawi and Busayyah.

2. At 1045 on 11 December 1995, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1247 hours.

3. At 1236 on the same day, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the area of Hawr al-Himar.

12 December 1995

1. Northern region: 8 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Zakho, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah and Aqrah.

2. Southern region: 36 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Qurnah, Nasiriyah, Chabaish, Samawah, Busayyah, Jalibah and Artawi.

3. On 12 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1210 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1252 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1518 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1615 hours.

13 December 1995

1. Northern region: 10 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 37 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Jalibah, Artawi, Amarah and Chabaish.

14 December 1995

1. Northern region: 11 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Irbil, Zakho, Dohuk, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 31 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Jalibah and Sha'biyah.

3. On 14 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1150 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1310 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1500 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1605 hours.

4. At 1412 on the same day, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the city of Samawah, causing the breaking of glass in the windows of citizens' homes and Governorate offices.

15 December 1995

1. Northern region: 21 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Zakho, Dohuk, Mosul, Irbil, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Aqrah and Amadiyah.

2. Southern region: 42 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Samawah, Busayyah, Jalibah and Artawi.

3. On the same day, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1115 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1237 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1455 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1615 hours.

16 December 1995

1. Southern region: 53 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Chabaish, Amarah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Busayyah and Jalibah.

2. On the same day, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1145 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1305 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1440 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1603 hours.

17 December 1995

1. Southern region: 38 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Qurnah, Chabaish and Shatrah.

2. On 17 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1020 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1220 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1310 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1510 hours.

3. At 1150 hours on the same day, a hostile United States helicopter violated Iraqi airspace in the north of the country, over Irbil and Ayn Zalah.

4. At 1635 on 17 December 1995, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the area of Hawr al-Himar.

18 December 1995

1. Northern region: 23 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Amadiyah and Aqrah.

2. Southern region: 51 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Nasiriyah, Salman, Samawah, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah, Busayyah and Artawi.

3. On 18 December 1995, two United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in areas in the south of the country, as follows:

The first flight entered Iraqi airspace at 0910 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1035 hours.

The second flight entered Iraqi airspace at 1230 hours and left in the direction of Kuwait at 1335 hours.

4. At 0910 on the same day, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the area of Umm Qasr.

5. At 1026 on 18 December 1995, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over the area of Hawr al-Himar.

19 December 1995

1. Northern region: 17 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Zakho, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Tall Afar and Mosul.

2. Southern region: 6 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Jalibah, Chabaish, Nasiriyah and Busayyah.

20 December 1995

1. Southern region: 49 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at medium altitudes, centred over Basra, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Jalibah, Chabaish, Qurnah and Artawi.

2. At 1308 on 20 December 1995, a United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated Iraqi airspace in the south of the country, leaving in the direction of Kuwait at 1330 hours.

3. At 1120 hours on the same day, a hostile United States helicopter violated Iraqi airspace in the north of the country, over Irbil and Amadiyah.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative